



North York Coin Club

Founded 1960

MONTHLY MEETINGS 4TH Tuesday 7:30 P.M. AT
Edithvale Community Centre, 131 Finch Ave. W., North York M2N 2H8

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Royal Canadian Numismatic Association

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1st Vice PresidentHenry Nienhuis
2nd Vice President.....
SecretaryHenry Nienhuis
TreasurerBen Boelens
Past PresidentNick Cowan

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Auction Manager.....Paul Johnson
EditorPaul Petch
ReceptionistFranco Farronato
Draw PrizesBill O'Brien
Social ConvenorBill O'Brien

THE BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good day to all of you fellow numismatists and to everyone who receives the North York Coin Club's monthly bulletin. It is hard to believe that we are already into the last week of summer and that the R.C.N.A. convention is already a distant memory for some, while another group is preparing for the big show next year. The circle of life in the numismatic world just keeps chugging away.

The first order of business this season is to thank all the club members and some of their spouses for all the help and support given to the R.C.N.A., the planning committee and myself over the last year or so making the convention held in August a success. For all those individuals, I hope that it was a learning experience as well as enjoyable to assist the organization and the club in this endeavour. I am forever grateful.

We will have more to say about this at the meeting, but I just wanted to thank everyone before hand for their generous effort and support. Oh, and the good news is that we made money that can be used for things like subsidizing the December dinner meeting meal for volunteers. Thanks again to all.

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NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

We start gathering in the Banquet Room on the first floor of the Edithvale Community Centre, at 7:00 p.m. with meeting start scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

For the September meeting we will look back on the events and our members' activities at the R.C.N.A. 2018 Convention. Our club's delegate to the convention, Paul Petch, will provide a report and lead the discussion of the many events that made up the convention program. This is each member's opportunity to contribute their own memories of the official and group meetings held during the convention, so please plan to attend.

Bring along your recent finds or special treasures to share with us during the show and tell!

Please remember to bring your auction lots so we can have a really fine auction at this meeting. Also, we appreciate all donations to our supply of draw prize material.



Bill O'Brien in his role as R.C.N.A. 2018 Convention Chairman pass the ribbon cutting scissors to James Williston, Chairman of next year's convention in Calgary

NEWS OF THE JULY 2018 MEETING

The 646th meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Wednesday, July 25, 2018 in the 1st floor Banquet Room at the Edithvale Community Centre. It was hammered to order at 7:34 p.m. with our President, Bill O'Brien, in the chair and 19 members and 2 guests in attendance.

The first order of business was the on-time attendance draw. Member Bill O'Brien was present when his name was drawn to receive the draw prize of \$10.00. The draw will reset to \$5.00 for the September 25th meeting.

Bill asked the members present if they had noticed any errors or omissions in the minutes of the May meeting as published in the June newsletter. With no changes noted, Phillip Simms made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Andrew Czajkowski. Motion carried.

With the recent return of our treasurer Ben Boelens, he gave a brief financial report.

Bill reminded everyone that this will be the last meeting prior to the R.C.N.A. Convention in August and took a moment to summarize the committee meeting held on site at the Hilton Meadowvale Hotel to go over final preparations. He reminded everyone of the vote from last meeting earmarking \$200 from the club for a donation to CAFNE and that Paul Petch had volunteered to be the Club Delegate and prepare a report for the September meeting.

Bill also reminded the members that we were not scheduling a meeting for August. He then called for any show-and-tell items that people had brought along.

Paul Petch talked about his participation as a speaker at the recent FIDEM conference at the end of May –beginning of June in Ottawa. He highlighted the many differences between the FIDEM Congress and what many of us are used to at a Numismatic Convention. His talk at the Congress, entitled "Wonderful things: the Dora de Pédery-Hunt medal collection" was presented on Thursday, May 31. This

was a more in-depth version of the presentation he gave at the R.C.N.A. Convention in July, 2017. Paul also mentioned that Susan Taylor, recently retired Chief Engraver at the Royal Canadian Mint, had designed the FIDEM Congress's Medal—inspired by the 100th anniversary of the granting of the Federal Franchise of the Women's Right to Vote in 1918. He indicated that there were only 200 of the five-sided, 75 mm, medals struck at the Royal Canadian Mint using a huge 2,500-ton hobbing press. He also mentioned that a limited number would be available for sale at the R.C.N.A. Convention.

Valerie Limasi talked about, and passed around, a counterfeit Morgan dollar that she recently obtained sporting a very pronounced clash on the obverse side.

Phillip Simms took a moment to update everyone on the mentorship program.

A short refreshment break was called from 8:05–8:15 p.m.

We resumed the meeting with our regular auction and our customary lucky draw. Lucky draw numbers were called at various times while the auction took place. Lucky draw winners for the evening were—Nick Cowan, Robert D. (3), Bill O'Brien, Phillip Simms, Jim Heifetz, Valerie Limasi (3), David Potok, Franco Farronato, Richard Duquette, and Bob Velensky. The club earned \$36.00 through the sale of the draw tickets! Our auction manager, Paul Johnson, reported that receipts from the auction added \$13.40 to the club coffers. We thank Andrew Silver, our auctioneer, Philip Tran, who volunteered as runner, and Paul Johnson, our auction manger, for their help.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

The club executive would like to thank members for supporting the club through the purchase of draw tickets and draw prize donations. Please consider supporting your club through a donation of numismatic material or other items. (Don't forget to mention your donations to the club secretary so that your support can be recognized in the minutes and newsletter.)

Our next regular meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 25, in the 1st floor Banquet room of the Edithvale Community Centre.



FIDEM Congress Medal



President's Message ... continued from page 1

The North York Coin Club executive has already been busy planning for the upcoming year and we hope to be able to provide a bit of everything again for your enjoyment and education in the hobby. The yearly coin show May 11 2019, auction night for March and our December 11 meeting at Tuckers' Marketplace are all back this year plus a variety of speakers to please even the toughest crowd.

The September meeting will be a recap of the R.C.N.A. convention from earlier this summer and the presentation of the medals to the volunteers that helped the club run this very successful event. We welcome all to attend and recognize these hard-working individuals who step up when the club needs help. My hat off to all who helped organize and implement this fantastic show.

The club still has some old-style wooden display cases that we own, and they will be sold, first come first served, for \$25.00 with no limits on purchases. We only have three cases remaining so don't hesitate if you want one as I will have them at the September meeting to sell. Also, the club has a very limited supply of duplicate medals related to some historic club events that will also be available for sale. There are also some Canada 150 medals for sale and a sample will be available for viewing at the meeting. If you missed your chance to purchase the club-sponsored medal last year, this is your last chance to obtain one. The selling price is \$15.00.

Please help the club with early payment of your membership dues ... still only \$10!

Something new for this time of year: I hope we will be able to provide up to date financial reports at the next meeting and I have been reminded by the finance department that membership dues are

payable between now and the November meeting. After that they are considered late and cannot be reported accurately on the financials, so please pay on time. I don't want to be chasing members for dues in May or June when they can be paid now, and come on, its only ten bucks. For anyone who can't afford it, see me.

As mentioned briefly above, the club now has its permit for the annual coin show. It will be held in the same spot and times as previous years and it will be held on Saturday May 11, 2019. See Paul Petch for the dealer table application form.

The show schedule for the fall season is off and running with numismatic events happening almost every weekend starting with club member Jared Stapleton and the Toronto Coin Expo on September 28-29. That is followed the next day by the Brampton Rotary Club show on September 30. The following month, before our meeting, we have the Troyak Club show in Mississauga on October 14, the Stratford Coin Club show on October 21 and out east on the same day Oshawa Coin Club's Coin-A-Rama in its new location. That is a lot of ground to cover if you want to attend all the shows, so pace yourself and don't always buy the first example of the item you're looking for because another example often emerges from the coin bins and is usually the better buy. Patience is a virtue; so don't forget it.

That's a wrap for me so please enjoy the last of the warmth of summer before it leaves us for the early fall season and its cooler temperatures but awesome colour changes in nature. Take that lazy drive to the coin show and enjoy the scenery instead of your usual highway 401 route. Time to slow down and take in the beauty of the countryside before winter hits.

Bill O'Brien

Edward Warren Barton's 1918 Obituary

An important collector of 100 years ago who is largely forgotten today

Edward W. Barton of Toronto, Canada, died at his home in that city on September 23, 1918, aged 72 years. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1846. Mr. Barton was a collector of Canadian, British and British Colonial coins. He was more than a mere collector—he was a lover and earnest student of his coins. Starting to collect when a boy in his early teens, during sixty years he studied Canadian coins and acquired knowledge of them that he was always pleased to place at the service of brother collectors. Many of his most rare Canadian items were obtained over fifty years ago. At that time copper and brass tokens of all descriptions passed readily as currency. In the Bouquet Sous and the Ships Colonies and Commerce series he was an authority and able at a glance to distinguish each die variety and to give to each its proper number. The writer recalls with pleasure visits made to Mr. Barton, in which he had the privilege of examining his collection, containing varieties that are seldom seen. He was very particular as to condition, being always desirous to improve it. One of the Bridge tokens and the 1820 Indian Head (B. 1008) were obtained at a cost of one cent nearly

sixty years ago, and were especially valued for the associations connected with them.

Mr. Barton joined the A. N. A. in 1902, and was No. 362 on its roll of members. He was a gentleman of culture, courteous, generous and sympathetic. By his kindly manner and ever-evident wishfulness to help, he endeared himself to all collectors who came in contact with him. He was prominent in the civic life of Toronto, being for several years an Alderman of the city. He was also a valued officer in several fraternal societies, being for years Colonel Commanding Second Regiment Ontario I. O. O. F. With his Canton he had visited several cities in the United States. The uniformed members of the Canton, showing the respect in which he was held, escorted him to his last resting-place. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church. He is survived by his widow and seven sons, six of whom acted as pallbearers. To these we offer our sincere sympathy.

John A. Wood,
A. N. A. District Secretary for Ontario in 1918

A CONVENTION STORY FROM THE PAST

by Paul R. Petch

As we return from the summer and with the annual conventions of both the R.C.N.A. and A.N.A. behind us, it is timely to recall a very different convention experience that occurred one hundred years ago. It was a time when World War I was still raging, although thankfully coming to its end, and the great world influenza pandemic (January 1918 to December 1920) involving the H1N1 influenza virus and given the name Spanish Flu was claiming many lives.

As incredible as it will seem to those involved in organizing a national convention today, the A.N.A.'s 1917 convention in Rochester wound up with the city of Philadelphia selected as the location for 1918, but without a date being established.

It was finally decided in April 1918 and announced in the May issue of *The Numismatist* that the Philadelphia 1918 convention would be held from September 21-25. However, that date proved unworkable and the following month the June *Numismatist* announced a change of date to Saturday October 5 through Wednesday October 9. The August *Numismatist* established the business meeting and exhibition space as being arranged at the Historical Association of Philadelphia building with the Hotel Stenton, only two blocks away, as being the convention hotel.

In the September issue, under the title *The Philadelphia Convention of the A. N. A.* came the following promotion and story:

The announcement of a date for an A.N.A. Convention, whether it occurs in August, October, or any other month, is usually sufficient to attract a goodly number of coin lovers. The gatherings of the A.N.A. members, which have been held annually since 1907, have become occasions too full of numismatic pleasure and social enjoyment to be overlooked by those who have attended any of them, and the coming Convention at Philadelphia, October 5 to 9, will no doubt find all the faithful ones on hand, with a good representation of first-timers.

As announced last month, headquarters will be at Hotel Stenton, Broad and Spruce streets. As many people are coming to the city at this season, it is absolutely necessary to make your reservations as quickly as possible, especially for the lower-priced rooms. Therefore, on reading this, write to the Hotel Stenton and specify clearly what reservations you want, and they will do all in their power to make you comfortable.

The business sessions and exhibit will be held in the building of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, corner of 13th and Locust streets.



Frank G. Duffield served as the editor of *The Numismatist* during 1918 and continued to serve until his retirement in 1942.

This picture was taken at that time.

This was followed in the same issue with *A Message from President Wurtzbach* to the members of the American Numismatic Association:

While naturally, and of necessity, all our thought and energy is directed toward doing whatever we can to win the great struggle in which we are engaged, it is nevertheless of great importance that interest in our science be maintained. As a means of recreation and relaxation, and for better fitting ourselves for the arduous tasks that confront us, it is almost a patriotic duty to keep posted and interested in numismatics.

I sincerely hope that every member who possibly can will make a special effort to attend the convention at Philadelphia next month. As will be noted on another page, an especially fine program has been prepared.

Let us get together for a few days, renew our acquaintances, enjoy seeing each other's treasures, and go back home happy and refreshed.

The October issue spoke of the convention now being underway and a full report on the convention coming in the next month . . . but such was not to be the case.

Under the title "*The Best-Laid Plans,*" Etc. this editorial appeared in the November issue:

In last month's issue, at the bottom of page 419, appeared the statement that "As this issue of the magazine is being sent to our readers the annual Convention of the American Numismatic Association is in session in Philadelphia."

It has long been the custom and privilege of newspaper and magazines to conclude that certain events scheduled for a definite future day or hour will take place at the appointed time, and to announce them as taking place at the time the publication reaches its readers. Obviously in such cases the matter must be written and put in type before the event happens.

Usually they get away with it. Once in a while they do not. Last month we did not.

When the matter for last month's issue left the editorial office for the printer there did not seem to be one chance in a thousand of falling down in stating that the annual Convention of the A.N.A. would be held in Philadelphia October 5-9. The Convention sky had only one small cloud (the influenza) in it at that time, and it was over only a small part of the country. With alarming rapidity the cloud extended over all the East, and by October 3 it had reached such proportions that in Philadelphia, as well as in other cities, the holding of public meetings or gatherings was prohibited, as is told elsewhere in this issue, and the Convention was necessarily postponed.

While it was no doubt a great disappointment to many of the members to be denied the privilege of taking part in what promised to be a most enjoyable gathering, it was the only thing, as well as the proper thing, to do in the circumstances. Next year's Convention should be doubly enjoyable on this account.

The main convention report article for the November issue had the title *The Annual A. N. A. Convention Postponed*:

By the time this issue of The Numismatist reaches its readers many of the members of the American Numismatic Association will have learned through other sources that the Convention scheduled to be held in Philadelphia October 5th to 9th was postponed on account of the epidemic of influenza. The Committee of Arrangements was allowed very little time in which to notify those who were expected to attend, with the result that a few members reached Philadelphia, not knowing that it had been postponed.

Writing to *The Numismatist* of the details leading to the postponement and other matters in connection with it, Mr. S. H. Chapman chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, says:

"At 2 P. M. on the afternoon of October 3 the Board of Health of Philadelphia had placed on the bulletin boards an order prohibiting all public assemblages, including those at churches, schools, theatres, moving-picture theatres, conventions, banquets at hotels, etc.

"I saw this notice as soon as it was posted, and immediately endeavoured to get into communication with the other members of the committee. Later I made a direct inquiry of the Board of Health as to whether the select assemblage of the Convention at the Historical Society would be prohibited or not, and I received the positive answer that it would come exactly under the ban.

"In consultation with others members of the Committee, Messrs. Henry Chapman, Fred E. Merritt and Harrold E. Gillingham, and directly with our President, Mr. Wurtzbach, who telephoned from Lee, Mass., we concluded that the Convention must be postponed, and the President ordered it postponed indefinitely.

"At midnight we sent several telegrams and letters to members who had announced their intention to attend, and sent additional messages during the forenoon of Friday, until all those who had informed the committee that they expected to be present were sent telegrams. Two Chicago members, Messrs. W. F. Dunham and Theo. E. Leon, and Mr. Hilyer Ryder of Carmel, N. Y., were already on their way before the telegrams were received. Mr. Geo. H. Blake of Jersey City, who did not notify us he was coming, also arrived. Messrs. Fred Joy of Boston, M. Marcuson of Cleveland, and H. H. Yawger of Rochester, though informed, came on to enjoy meeting any members that might have arrived.

"We had small social gatherings at the Hotel Stenton and at the homes of two of the members of the committee, and all enjoyed the opportunities for conversation on the study in which we are all mutually interested.

"The general consensus of opinion was that as the Convention this year was thus postponed, and in view of the state of our country and our absorption in the war, with all its anxieties and many extra duties to be performed, it would be well to postpone having any Convention this year and to leave the government of the A. N. A. in the hands of the President and Board of Governors until the end of the war."

Under date of October 17, President Wurtzbach wrote to *The Numismatist* as follows:

"On October 3 articles appeared in the daily press calling attention to the serious conditions in Philadelphia. General Secretary Oliver called me by telephone, referring to the articles, and saying he was sick and felt that he could not come. Waldo C. Moore, Chairman of the Board of Governors, had written me that because of the Liberty Loan drive it would be impossible for him to attend. Mr. Oliver asked me what I thought about holding the Convention under the circumstances. I told him I would get in touch with the Convention Committee and advise him later. I put in a call for Mr. S. H. Chapman about 6 PM, finally getting him at 9.45 PM, and found him in conference with the other members of the committee. I asked him if the health authorities would permit our holding the meeting, and he replied 'No.' Orders had just been issued forbidding meetings of this nature. I asked Mr. Chapman to get a notice to the Associated Press reporter, which we expected would appear in the next day's papers. I also asked him to telephone and telegraph as many members as possible who had signified their intention of attending, saying that Mr. Oliver and I would take care of the various A. N. A. branches. Telegrams were sent to Chicago, Boston, Rochester and New York branches and clubs, and everything possible done to notify the members."

From the above it will be seen that every effort was made, with only a few hours' notice, to reach all members who were expected to attend, before leaving their homes for the Convention. To postpone the convention was the only thing to do, and the officers and committee deserve the thanks of the members for the good judgment shown and the speed with which it was made effective.

A photograph of those who reached Philadelphia was taken on the steps of Hotel Stenton on Sunday, October 6. Those in the photograph are: Messrs. H. H. Yawger of Rochester, Fred Joy of Boston, Fred E. Merritt of Philadelphia, Mr. and Mrs. Howard R. Newcomb of Detroit, George H. Blake of Jersey City, Henry Chapman and S. H. Chapman of Philadelphia, M. Marcuson of Cleveland, and three others whom the editor is unable to identify. A list of those present furnished by one of them, includes, in addition to those previously mentioned, F. J. Loer of Chicago.

Sadly the November issue also included this entry, *A Personal Word From The Editor*:

The greater part of the editorial work on this issue of The Numismatist has been done with a heart burdened with sorrow. The influenza, followed by pneumonia, has entered the family of the editor and taken both a beloved daughter and her husband, their deaths occurring within a few days of each other. The attending circumstances have made it impossible for the editor to give the usual amount of time to the magazine during the month, and are responsible for the slight delay in its publication and for whatever imperfections it may contain.

With an emergency executive meeting in Springfield, Mass. on December 11 for the purpose of keeping the business affairs of the Association in order, the formal operations of the A.N.A. concluded for the terrible year of 1918. As it turned out, the convention for 1919 was doubly enjoyable and did take place in Philadelphia.

As a convention and numismatic event organizer, stories such as this from times so long ago still serve to remind us that no matter what problems or vagaries fate may put in our way, our troubles are relatively small compared to those faced one hundred years ago.

THE GLOBAL WAR AGAINST ANCIENT COIN COLLECTORS

by Mike Markowitz from a CoinWeek article on the Internet

By including antiquities within the political construction “cultural property” nationalist retentionist cultural policies often claim all antiquities from beneath, or on the soil of lands within their borders as cultural property and of importance to their national identity, and their citizens’ collective and individual identities.¹

There is a global war against ancient coin collectors. Like so many wars in history, it is largely based on lies.

Rampant looting of archaeological sites around the world has created tragic gaps in our knowledge of human history. But the role of coins in this tragedy is routinely exaggerated to advance the political agendas of those who seek to define all ancient coins outside state control as “stolen property” and to criminalize the private ownership of antiquities.

Collectible antiquities include statues and figurines, weapons and armour, metal, glass and ceramic vessels, panels of sculptured stone, mosaics, painted frescoes, jewellery and many other kinds of artifacts². Ancient coins represent a small and by no means the most valuable fraction of the global antiquities market.

Coins differ from most antiquities in two important respects: they were mass-produced, and they were meant to circulate. Because coins were mass-produced, thousands or even millions of very similar examples exist³. Between 330 and 323 BCE, Alexander the Great captured 180,000 talents of silver from the Persian Empire. That would make 270 million tetradrachms (a standard trade coin of about 17 grams.) Most were eventually melted down and recycled. Many others were lost, and millions remain buried, but today many reside in public and private collections both great and small. And since coins were a medium of exchange, they are often found far from their points of origin, sometimes thousands of miles away.

Ancient coin collecting has a long, honourable and scholarly history that stretches back to the Renaissance. Presidents Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams collected ancient coins. The impending destruction of this hobby is merely collateral damage in a larger struggle pitting collectors, museums and the antiquities trade against academic archaeologists and powerful “cultural patrimony” bureaucrats, whose job security depends on stirring up public outrage over “looting.”

The archaeological lobby and its political allies wants you to believe that collecting ancient coins funds the tomb raiders and professional looters who destroy ancient sites. But collectible coins are seldom found in tombs, and rarely encountered on archaeological sites. Most ancient coins that reach the market are found in hoards. There were no banks in the ancient world; if you wanted to keep your money safe in times of unrest, you buried it in a pot, generally well away from buildings. If no one ever came back to reclaim it, it’s still there.

The 1970 UNESCO Convention

The opening salvo in the war against collectors was fired in 1970 in Paris, when the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted a

“Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property,” which came into force on 24 April 1972. In eight pages of text, the word “coin” occurs exactly once:

(e) antiquities more than one hundred years old, such as inscriptions, coins and engraved seals.

In discussion of antiquities, the year 1970 is commonly taken as a benchmark. Objects documented as outside their country of origin before 1970 are considered legitimate; anything exported after that date is suspect, and many museums refuse to acquire or display such material.

The Cultural Property Advisory Committee

In 1983 the United States Congress enacted the **Cultural Property Implementation Act (CPIA)**⁴, which ratified the UNESCO Convention with some reservations. Mark Feldman, the State Department’s Deputy Legal Adviser, told Congress that “this legislation and the ratification of the [1970 UNESCO] convention would have no immediate effect on coins and it is hard for me to imagine a case where we would need to deal with coins except in the most unusual circumstances.”

The Act established a Cultural Property Advisory Committee (CPAC) of 11 members appointed by the president and currently managed by the Department of State’s Cultural Heritage Center. The committee’s task is to “advise the president (or his designee) on appropriate U.S. action in response to requests from State Parties for assistance in protecting their cultural heritage⁵.” Originally intended to reflect a balance of interests among museums, antiquity dealers, archaeologists and the “general public,” the committee has become a tool for academic archaeologists to determine US foreign policy regarding antiquities.

This policy is embodied in a series of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU’s) between the United States and a number of foreign countries. For ancient coins, the most significant current MoU’s are those with Bulgaria, China, Cyprus, Greece and Italy. There are separate import restrictions on antiquities from Iraq and Syria (but not Afghanistan, oddly enough⁶).

Back in 1983, the drafters of the CPIA did not anticipate that coins would be subject to import restrictions. But things have turned out quite differently.

Bulgaria

According to Section (I)(B)(7) of the United States’ MoU with Bulgaria, restrictions on the importation of Bulgarian coins include the following [emphasis by CoinWeek]:

1. *Pre-monetary media of exchange* including “arrow money,” bells, and bracelets.



- Approximate date: 13th century BC through 6th century BC.
2. *Thracian and Hellenistic coins* struck in gold, silver, and bronze by city-states and kingdoms that operated in the territory of the modern Bulgarian state. This designation includes official coinages of Greek-using city-states and kingdoms, Scythian and Celtic coinage, and local imitations of official issues. Also included are Greek coins from nearby regions that are found in Bulgaria. Approximate date: 6th century BC through the 1st century BC.
 3. *Roman provincial coins*—Locally produced coins usually struck in bronze or copper at mints in the territory of the modern state of Bulgaria. May also be silver, silver plate, or gold. Approximate date: 1st century BC through the 4th century AD.
 4. *Coinage of the First and Second Bulgarian Empires and Byzantine Empire*—Struck in gold, silver, and bronze by Bulgarian and Byzantine emperors at mints within the modern state of Bulgaria. Approximate date: 4th century AD through AD 1396.
 5. *Ottoman coins*—Struck at mints within the modern state of Bulgaria. Approximate date: AD 1396 through AD 1750.⁷

China

The MOU applies to coinage from its beginnings under the Zhou Dynasty (1,046–256 BCE) through the Tang Dynasty, which ended in 907 CE (Kleeberg, 19). Ironically such coins are widely bought and sold within China—one of the leading auction houses belongs to the Chinese Army.

Cyprus

The MoU restricts “Coins of Cypriot type including, but not limited to:

- 1 Issues of the ancient kingdoms of *Amathus, Kition, Kourion, Idalion, Lapethos, Marion, Paphos, Soli,* and *Salamis* dating from the end of the 6th century BC to 332 BC
- 2 Issues of the Hellenistic period, such as those of *Paphos, Salamis,* and *Kition* from 332 BC to c. 30 BC.
- 3 Provincial and local issues of the Roman period from c. 30 BC to 235 AD.”

Greece

The MoU restricts:

“*Greek Silver Coins*—This category includes the small denomination coins of the city-states of *Aegina, Athens,* and *Corinth,* and the *Kingdom of Macedonia* under *Philip II* and *Alexander the Great.* Such coins weigh less than approximately 10 grams and are known as obols, diobols, triobols, hemidrachms, and drachms. Also included are all denominations of coins struck by the other city-states, leagues, and kingdoms that operated in the territory of the modern Greek state (including the ancient territories of the Peloponnese, Central Greece, Thessaly, Epirus, Crete, and those parts of the territories of ancient Macedonia, Thrace and the Aegean islands that lie within the

boundaries of the modern Greek state). Approximate date: 6th century BC. to late 1st century BC.

“*Roman Coins Struck in Greece*—In silver and bronze, struck at Roman and Roman provincial mints that operated in the territory of the modern Greek state (including the ancient territories of the Peloponnese, Central Greece, Thessaly, Epirus, Crete, and those parts of the territories of ancient Macedonia, Thrace and the Aegean islands that lie within the boundaries of the modern Greek state). Approximate date: late 2nd century B.C. to 3rd century A.D.”⁸

Italy

On January 15, 2016, the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with Italy was renewed five years. The following types are banned from entry into the United States:

- 1 *Lumps of bronze (Aes Rude)*—Irregular lumps of bronze used as an early medium of exchange in Italy from the 9th century BC.
- 2 *Bronze bars (Ramo Secco and Aes Signatum)*—Cast bronze bars (whole or cut) used as a media of exchange in central Italy and Etruria from the 5th century BC.
- 3 *Cast coins (Aes Grave)*—Cast bronze coins of Rome, *Etruscan,* and Italian cities from the 4th century BC.
- 4 *Struck coins*—Struck coins of the Roman Republic and Etruscan cities produced in gold, silver, and bronze from the 3rd century BC to c. 211 BC, including the “Romano-Campanian” coinage.
- 5 *Struck colonial coinage*—Struck bronze coins of Roman republican and early imperial colonies and municipia in Italy, Sicily, and Sardinia from the 3rd century BC to c. AD 37.
- 6 *Coins of the Greek cities*—Coins of the Greek cities in the southern Italian peninsula and in Sicily (Magna Graecia), cast or struck in gold, silver, and bronze, from the late 6th century BC to c. 200 BC.⁹

The Future

Efforts to strangle the coin trade in red tape are not just an American problem. In July 2016 the German Parliament passed the new **Cultural Property Protection Act**, requiring that any antiquity offered for sale be accompanied by a valid export license from the country of origin. Germany has historically been a major player in the ancient coin trade, with many old and internationally respected auction houses. A last minute lobbying campaign by collectors secured an exemption for coins.

“[C]oins are not considered archaeological items if they are available in a great number, if they do not really add to archaeological knowledge and are not placed under protection by any EU member country as customizable individual objects¹⁰.”

In September 2016 a new threat emerged when a bill was introduced into the U.S. Senate (S.3449) to amend the federal Stolen Property Act (originally meant to criminalize interstate car theft). Based on the widely discredited claim that ISIS is



funded by looted antiquities, this “Terrorism Art and Antiquity Revenue Prevention Act of 2016” would empower Federal agencies to seize and repatriate artifacts valued at as little as \$50, on the assumption that they were illegally removed from Syria or Iraq¹.

Within the boundaries of Iraq and Syria (which did not exist as nations until the 20th century) were many mints of the Persian, Hellenistic, Parthian, Sasanian, Roman, Byzantine, Crusader and Islamic eras.

Every American with even a fraction of European ancestry is almost certainly descended from people who were, at some point, citizens — or foes — of the Roman Empire. Ancient history is not just someone else’s story. It is our story, and our precious “cultural patrimony,” too!²

It is ironic that so many archaeologically well-endowed regions are populated today by the descendants of the invaders who destroyed the very cultures whose remnants their modern governments claim as exclusively their own. . . . Do these descendants have a more exclusive moral claim to the buried artifacts of earlier civilizations than the rest of humanity?³

Collectors concerned about these issues are invited to follow Peter Tompa’s excellent blog, *Cultural Property Observer*, and to consider joining the **Ancient Coin Collector’s Guild**, which lobbies against unreasonable restrictions on the coin trade.



Notes

- ¹ James Cuno, “Museums, Antiquities, Cultural Property and the US Legal Framework” in Fitz Gibbon (2005), p. 144
- ² When experts don’t know what something was for, an object is often catalogued as “ceremonial object.”
- ³ Unlike modern machine made coins, no two ancient coins are ever truly “identical” even when struck from the same dies.
- ⁴ § 2601
- ⁵ <https://eca.state.gov/cultural-heritage-center/cultural-property-protection/process-and-purpose/cultural-property-advisory>
- ⁶ <https://eca.state.gov/files/bureau/chart-of-import-restrictions.pdf>
- ⁷ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2014/01/16/2014-00615/import-restrictions-imposed-on-certain-archaeological-and-ecclesiastical-ethnological-material-from>
- ⁸ Federal Register: December 1, 2011 (Volume 76, Number 231) [Rules and Regulations] Page 74,691
- ⁹ Federal Register: January 19, 2011 (Volume 76, Number 12) [Rules and Regulations] Pages 3,012–3,013
- ¹⁰ <http://www.coinsweekly.com/en/News/New-German-Cultural-Property-Protection-Act-into-effect/>
- ¹¹ Co-sponsors of the legislation are Senators Thom Tillis (R-NC), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Jeff Sessions (R-AL), Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), and Marco Rubio (R-FL). It is currently before the Senate Committee on Finance.
- ¹² Early American coinage closely followed classical models, and even today you cannot examine a US coin without reading a Latin inscription.
- ¹³ Andre Emmerich, “Improving the Odds: Preservation Through Distribution,” in Fitz Gibbon (ed.) *Who Owns the Past?* (2005)

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A POT OF GOLD COINS HAS BEEN FOUND UNDER AN ITALIAN THEATRE

Carly Cassella September 12, 2018 — reporting from sciencealert.com on the Internet

A literal pot of gold has been found not at the end of a rainbow, but in the basement of an old, abandoned Italian theatre. During an archaeological dig in the first week of September, historians discovered a broken soapstone amphora—a kind of clay urn—at the bottom of the Cressoni Theatre in Como, northern Italy, on the border with Switzerland. The ancient artefact's unusual shape and design was soon upstaged by its glittering contents, seen through a missing chunk in the urn's wall.

Inside was an estimated 300 gold coins from the late Roman Imperial era, dating to the 5th century, just before the western empire's untimely demise. Rome was sacked in A.D. 410 by a group called the Goths, and in A.D. 455 by a group called the Vandals. In A.D. 476, the Western Roman Empire officially came to an end when the last emperor, a man named Romulus Augustulus, abdicated. The Eastern Roman Empire (sometimes called the Byzantine Empire by modern-day historians) regained much of Italy during a series of military campaigns during the rule of Justinian I (who reigned from A.D. 527 to 565). But his successors couldn't hold on to it, and a group called the Lombards gradually took over Italy in the time after Justinian's death, in 565. Additionally, the ancient world was ravaged by the plague, which started in A.D. 541 and killed millions of people.

Whether the deposit of the hoard has anything to do with the chaos that was engulfing the Roman Empire around 1,500 years ago is unclear, but current research may eventually provide answers.

Coin hoards have been found at many sites throughout the ancient Mediterranean, including a 1,500-year-old hoard found at the Greek city of Corinth. However, hoards containing an abundance of gold coins are rare, and the ministry called the new find an "extraordinary discovery" in one of the statements. Despite their age, the coins are in miraculous condition, with all the images clearly visible.

"We do not yet know in detail the historical and cultural significance of the find," said Alberto Bonisoli, the culture minister of Italy's Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities (Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali) in a press release. "But that area is proving to be a real treasure for our archaeology; a discovery that fills me with pride."

The coins were found during renovation work at the building in Como, which was once a theatre and is now being transformed into apartments. Luca Rinaldi, the local archaeology superintendent, declined to put a price on the find, saying that the coins had an "inestimable" value. "We are talking about an exceptional discovery," he said. He said that the sheer number of coins made the find incredible. "It's practically an entire collection, unlike anything else ever found in northern Italy," he said.



The coins were found hidden inside an amphora, which is a jar used by the Romans for storing liquids such as wine and olive oil.

Photos courtesy Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities

Thanks to their inscriptions Roman coins are a rich source of information about the empire and the latest find may shed valuable light on the dying days of Roman rule in a century when weak emperors succumbed to the invading Visigoths, Vandals and Huns.

The urn and its stash of gold were taken to a government restoration laboratory in Milan, where they will be thoroughly examined. This might take a while, however, as the coins were found tightly packed into little stacks, so that they can only be removed one at a time with careful precision. So far, the historians have successfully separated 27 coins, all of which are from the 5th century. This makes this treasure particularly intriguing, as during this time, there was very little currency flow in the Roman economic system. The coins feature effigies that suggest they were minted during the reigns of five different emperors: Honorius, Valentinian III, Leon I, Antonio, and Libio Severo.

The Italian media has predicted that the coins, none of which are dated later than 474 AD, could be worth millions of euros. And that doesn't even take into account everything that was found in the urn, or the urn itself. Keeping the coins company was a bar of gold, and at the bottom of the urn, archaeologists predict even more precious objects might be found. According to The History Blog, "no such hoard has even been unearthed in northern Italy before."

The archaeological site may seem like an odd place to stash such valuable items, but whoever placed them there likely "buried it in such a way that in case of danger they could go and retrieve it." That's according to Maria Grazia Facchinetti, an expert in rare coins. Beyond the location, the way that the coins were hidden has given historians like Facchinetti a few hints about the owner's identity. "They were stacked in rolls similar to those seen in the bank today," she says. "All of this makes us think that the owner is not a private subject, rather it could be a public bank or deposit."

Facchinetti's theory is bolstered by the fact that the theatre is just a few steps away from the city's forum—a place where merchants, banks, and temples often did business. Although the ancient Roman neighbourhood was also known for its wealth, so a miserly and paranoid private owner is not out of the question.

Layer analysis will now be used to determine if the coins were all deposited in the same era or if they were placed in the urn over a period of time.

The Cressoni Theatre, where the coins were found, is not far from the ancient city of Novum Comum, home to many other important Roman artefacts. The historic theatre was opened in 1807 but was converted into a cinema that closed in 1997.

Today, the plan is to demolish the old building and replace it with luxury residences. The recent discovery, however, has stalled all future work at the site until further archaeological excavations can be made.

COMING EVENTS FOR FALL 2018

Sept. 22, Guelph, Guelph Fall Coin Show, Colonel John McCrae Legion Branch 234, 57 Watson Pkwy. S. Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Not just FREE admission to Guelph show, each attendee will receive a coupon for FREE admission to the Toronto Coin Expo the following week! *Free level parking, fully accessible. Legendary lunch counter. Coins, banknotes, tokens, Canadian Tire money, medals, books and supplies at more than 35 dealer tables. Featuring some of Canada's and Europe's top numismatic dealers. Club-sponsored Kid's Table for under 14; buy, sell, trade or evaluate.* For more information contact Mike Hollingshead, email cholling@uoguelph.ca, telephone 519-823-2646.

Website:

<http://www.southwellingtoncoinsociety.com>

Sept. 28 – 29, Toronto, Toronto Coin Expo – Canada's Coin & Banknote Show, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St. Located on the 2nd floor. Hours: Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission \$6, under 16 free. *Featuring 30+ internationally renowned coin and banknote dealers. This is the place in Canada to buy, sell, trade. Appraisals with internationally renowned dealers in coins, banknotes, tokens, medals, militaria, gold, silver and jewelry.* Partnering with Geoffrey Bell Auctions; auction Sept. 27-28, 2018. For more information contact Jared Stapleton, email torontocoinexpo@gmail.com, telephone 647-403-7334. Website: <http://www.torontocoinexpo.ca>

Sept. 30, Brampton, Rotary Club of Brampton Coin and Trading Card Show, Century Gardens Recreation Centre, 340 Vodden Rd. E. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$3, under 14 free and free parking. *Buy, sell, trade and appraise at more than 40 tables of dealers, including a children's table. Funds raised for children's charities.* For more information contact Willard Burton, email willardb@bell.net, telephone 416-254-6569.

Oct. 14, Mississauga, Mississauga Coin & Stamp Show, John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre, 4300 Cawthra Rd. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Over 30 dealers & 60 dealer tables. Canadian and world coins, banknotes, stamps and supplies.* Buy, sell, trade, appraise. Sponsored by the Troyak Club. For more information contact Les Plonka, email leszekp@rogers.com, telephone 416-5057999. Website: <http://www.troyakclub.com>

Oct. 21, Stratford, Stratford Coin Show, Festival Inn, 1144 Ontario St. Admission \$2 adults, 16 and under free. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Buy and sell coins, paper money and tokens.* For more information contact Larry Walker, email lswalker@cyg.net, telephone 519-271-3352. Website: <http://www.stratfordcoinclub.ca>

Oct. 21, Oshawa, COIN-A-RAMA, Jubilee Pavilion, 55 Lakeview Park Ave. NEW VENUE! NEW DATE! One day only. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. *Free dealer and membership draws, New hourly public draws, free admission, featuring paper, coins, tokens, medals, books & supplies and many other items. So come out and look for that special item for your collection or for a gift. I am sure you'll find what you need.* For more information contact Sharon MacLean, email papman@bell.net, telephone 905-728-1352. Website: <http://www.oshawacoinclub.com>

Oct. 27 – 28, Toronto, TOREX® – Canada's National Coin Show & Auctions, Hyatt Regency on King, 370 King St. W. Hours: Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission \$7. Under 16 Free! *Numismatic excellence since 1962, featuring Canada's finest dealers in Canadian, ancient, and foreign coins, paper money, coin and paper money supplies and reference books.* Official Auctioneer: The Canadian Numismatic Company. Auction viewing begins on Friday. For more information contact Brian R Smith, email brian@torex.net, telephone 416-705-5348. Website: <http://www.torex.net>

Nov. 2 – 4, Montreal, Nuphilex – Complex EVO, 420 Sherbrooke St. West Admission \$5 Friday and Saturday, free Sunday, early bird admission \$25, beginning Friday 8 a.m. Hours: Fri. and Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The largest coin and stamp show in Canada. Auction to be conducted by Lower Canada Auction. For more information contact Emmanuel, email montrealnuphilex@gmail.com, telephone 514-889-7740. Website: <http://www.nuphilex.com>

Nov. 3, Scarborough, Scarborough Coin Club 22nd Annual Coin Show, Cedarbrook Community Centre, 91 Eastpark Blvd. Hours: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free admission and draws. Coins, paper money, tokens, medals, club table, etc. Refreshments available. We are at the location where our club meets. For more information contact Dick Dunn, email cpms@bell.net.

Nov. 10, Niagara Falls, Niagara Falls Coin Club Show, Our Lady of Peace Hall, 6944 Stanley Ave. Show opens at 9 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m. *This popular one-day show in beautiful Niagara will feature dealers from across Canada selling and buying coins, paper money, tokens, books, supplies, jewelry, stamps, post cards, militaria and sports cards.* For more information contact Andy Grecco, telephone 905-278-3534.

Nov. 11, Windsor, Windsor Coin Club, Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Ave. The Windsor Coin Club will be holding its 67th Annual Fall Coin Show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thirty-nine dealer tables. Admission is \$1 with junior free when accompanied by an adult. Plenty of free parking. For more information contact Margaret Clarke, email mtclarke@mnsi.net, telephone 519-735-0727.

Dec. 2, Brampton, Rotary Club of Brampton Coin and Trading Card Show, Century Gardens Recreation Centre, 340 Vodden Rd. E. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$3, under 14 free and free parking. *Buy, sell, trade and appraise at more than 40 tables of dealers, including a children's table. Funds raised for children's charities* For more information contact Willard Burton, email willardb@bwcoins.com, telephone 905-450-2870.

*Listings are courtesy of
Canadian Coin News Coming Events*